

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM GARDEN.

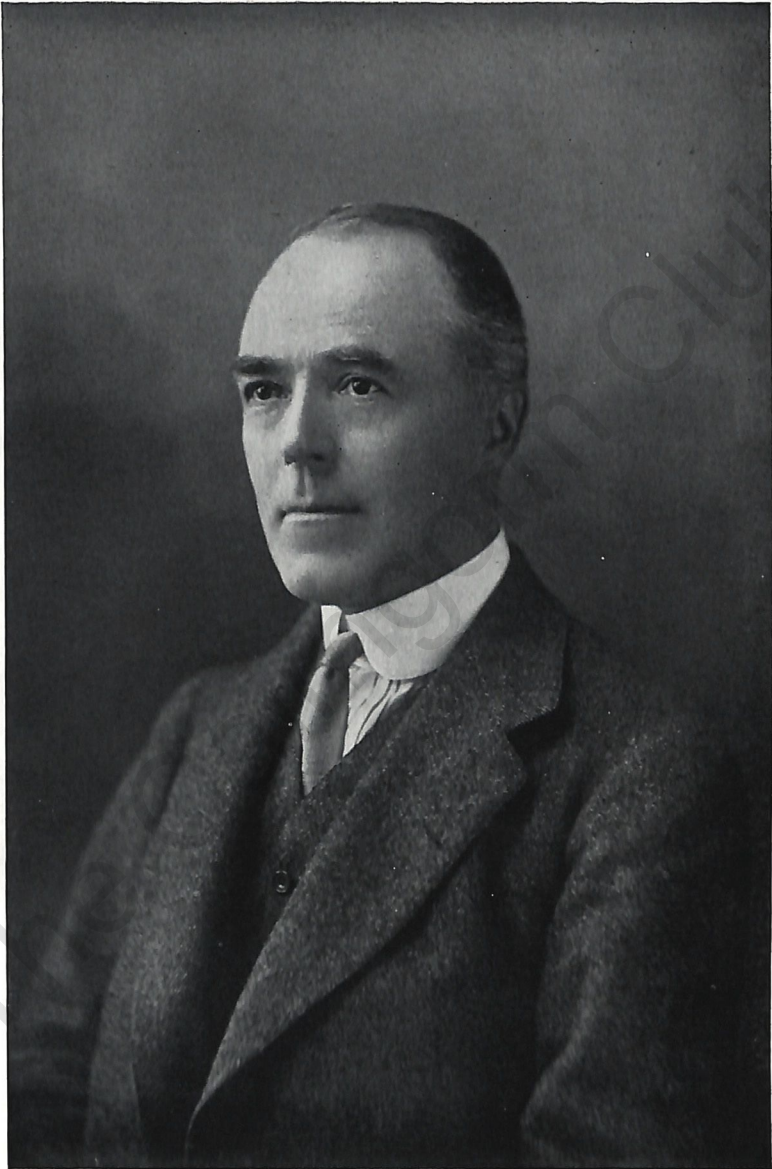
WILLIAM GARDEN died in Aberdeen on November 20, 1950, in his eightieth year. Only son of the late F. T. Garden, Esq., advocate in Aberdeen, William Garden graduated at Aberdeen University in Arts and Law, and spent some four years in Edinburgh before returning to Aberdeen in 1899 to become a partner in his father's firm of C. & P. H. Chalmers. From that time until his death he was active in the business of the firm and seldom absent from work, except for a period of illness some four years ago and again for a short time before his death.

A man of simple tastes and with no liking for public affairs, William Garden had two, possibly three, main interests for his recreation. Mountaineering and music were undoubtedly his two great loves, but literature, chiefly historical and legal, claimed much of his time especially in later years.

His pleasure in music was of a quiet and almost domestic type. For many years, he was a member of a quartette of friends meeting weekly to play chamber music for their own delight. William Garden, himself, was an able performer on the 'cello. He was also a piper of considerable ability, as many of his Scottish friends know.

His ruling passion, however, was centred in the sport and art of mountaineering. Truly may it be said that, in his day, William Garden was an international figure in his beloved sport. He climbed the heights in many countries, Switzerland, Norway, Canada, but his love of the Scottish hills and his knowledge of them was profound.

This love of the hills was no selfish passion. William Garden was for many years an active and enthusiastic member of three great climbing clubs, the Alpine Club, the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and the Cairngorm Club. Of these, the two Scottish Clubs undoubtedly held his



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greatest affection. He was a member of both from 1896 until his death, and in the affairs of both he played an active and leading part.

In the Scottish Mountaineering Club he served on the Committee from 1904 till 1907, and again from 1929 till 1932. He was Vice-President from 1915 to 1919, and President from 1934 to 1936. In 1911, in collaboration with his great friend, the late James A. Parker, he compiled the Index of the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*, Volumes I-X. He was also the author of several important articles in the *Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal*. In his earlier days he attended most of the Meets of the Club and was a pioneer in several difficult snow climbs in the Cairngorms and elsewhere, including an attempted ascent of the Douglas-Gibson gully with Raeburn.

In the Cairngorm Club, he served on Committee from 1911 to 1921, and again from 1928 to 1930. He was President from 1925 to 1927, but his greatest work in the affairs of the Club was done while he was Secretary from 1932 to 1949. During that long period of office, he conducted the affairs of the Cairngorm Club with most devoted skill under several Presidents. It may be said truly that he was the friend of every member. He did not contribute much to the Club Journal, possibly because of his activities as Secretary, but he was intimately associated with James A. Parker and others in the erection of indicators on Lochnagar and Ben Macdhui, and in the foundation of the Club library. There is no doubt, however, that his great contribution to the Club was his knowledge of the hills and of mountaineering. He gave freely and enthusiastically to anyone who cared to talk with him or who sought his advice. When he retired from the active work of Secretary in 1949, the Club presented to him, at the Annual Dinner, a composition of sketches of all the Presidents of the Club, as a token of the high regard in which he was held by all members.

In his younger days, as a member of the Alpine Club, his activities in Switzerland and elsewhere in the sphere of rock and ice climbing were curtailed as a result of an accident. In 1901, he had ascended the Matterhorn and the

Weisshorn. In 1902, in a party including J. H. Brown and the guides Knubel and Imboden, he climbed the Wetterhorn from Grindelwald. The ascent took longer than had been anticipated, owing to new snow, and the upper couloir was difficult, but they reached the top. On the descent, while crossing the lower couloir, much later than they had intended, they took care owing to the possibility of avalanches. William Garden and Imboden had crossed and anchored and Brown was in the act of crossing. An avalanche fell. The whole party was swept down 1,200 feet. Brown was killed and Knubel died a little later. Garden was injured and Imboden was severely concussed. They were rescued by a German climber and a guide.

This unfortunate accident resulted in Garden promising his father that he would not undertake any dangerous and difficult mountaineering again and, probably because of this, a few years later he did not complete the ascent of Mount Assiniboine while he was a member of the first party to cross this 11,800 foot peak in the Canadian Rockies. Nevertheless, he brought back with him a great collection of fine photographs of the Rocky Mountains and he delighted to show them to friends and to recall the incidents of this phase of his climbing activities.

For a long time after he had given up strenuous snow and rock climbing, William Garden loved to walk the Scottish hills. The effect of the mountains upon him was to make him young in spirit and he was a wonderful companion, full of humour and reminiscence, with a great knowledge at his fingertips and a delight in imparting this to the younger mountaineers. The writer's most vivid recollections of him are those of a climbing holiday in the autumn of 1919, at Sligachan in Skye in the most depressing weather with continual rain, when his instruction in the technique of rock climbing on Sgùrr nan Gilleann and on Blaven, Clach Glas and other peaks of the Black Cuillin, made a profound impression and laid a sound foundation for a wider knowledge of mountaineering.

William Garden will be missed by many friends. He had a solid quality in him which created a feeling of security

whether it was in the giving of an opinion or in the conducting of a party over the mountains, and certainly in the Scottish climbing clubs his great personality and commanding figure were an inspiration to younger generations of climbers.

DAVID P. LEVACK.

GEORGE DUNCAN, C.B.E., LL.D.

By the death of Dr George Duncan the Club has lost one of its prominent senior members, who attended many of its Meets and took a keen interest in its affairs. As a citizen of Aberdeen he was very well known, and tribute to his civic activities has been paid elsewhere. He was an active walker at all times and was familiar with the Braemar district where he spent his annual holiday for many years. All those who have accompanied him on walks in that region or elsewhere will recall the remarkable fund of anecdote and allusion which he had at his command. He could at all times recount curious circumstances relating to persons or places which enhanced the interest of such walks. Noticeable about his anecdotes, whether concerned with past or present, was the feeling for history which underlay them, Dr Duncan was an assiduous reader. His interests were many. Remarkable in so practical-minded a man was, for instance, his interest in supernatural events. The tales of the Ben Macdhui ghost, or the better documented case of Sergeant Davies, seemed to attract him as matters for evidence, not to be dismissed with a laugh. Dr Duncan's conversation on these and other topics will be fresh in the memory of many members; as is that of his excellent physique in his active years. Also remembered will be the cordiality with which he was wont to support any useful new project or idea.

W. M. A.

EDRED MOSS CORNER

WE regret to report the death of Edred Moss Corner, B.Sc. (London), M.A., M.B., B.C.(Cantab.), F.R.C.S., a life member of the Club and a distinguished surgeon. Born